



Security Council

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Letter dated 2 May 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 30 April 2001, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex

**Letter dated 30 April 2001 from the Secretary-General
of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed
to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) **George Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 March 2001) there were just over 21,700 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.
2. Following the general election held in November 2000, the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 March 2001 approved the first non-nationalist government since the 1992-1995 war. On 30 March, the House of Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed Presidents Belkic and Krizanovic as the new Bosniac and Bosnian Croat members of the Joint Presidency.
3. Troops of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations by means of ground and air patrols. Other operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre, and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.
4. SFOR continues to assist the local police and the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in providing a safe and secure environment in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja, near the Sarajevo airport, to help the International Arbitrator appointed by the Office of the High Representative to resolve issues related to the location of the inter-entity boundary line. The International Arbitrator has heard closing arguments and is expected to announce his decision in mid-April.
5. On 30 March, an SFOR shuttle bus was hit by a shot from an air rifle on the road from Butmir to Rajlovac, on the outskirts of Sarajevo; there were no casualties. And on 31 March, another shuttle bus was stoned on the Sarajevo airport road, and one soldier was slightly injured.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.
7. Under the second phase of the establishment of the State Border Service which began in January 2001, there are now 826 members working in the headquarters and in eight offices. On 23 March, a new unit was inaugurated at Brod, on the northern border of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The State Border Service is expected to achieve a membership of 2,700 working in 17 field offices by 2002.
8. Over the reporting period, SFOR troops conducted inspections of 205 weapons storage sites and 3 government ordnance factory sites. On 5 March, SFOR started Operation Hatyer to ensure the security of Bosnian Croat weapons storage sites. On two occasions, Bosnian Croat sites were found to be unguarded, but no discrepancies were reported.

9. SFOR troops monitored 459 training and movement activities: 98 Bosnian Serb; 236 Bosniac; 29 Bosnian Croat; and 94 Federation.

10. During the period under review, demining teams of the Entity Armed Forces were involved in a total of 147 mine-clearing activities.

Cooperation with international organizations

11. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), the International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the International Office of the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

12. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in its efforts to establish common institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

13. The Federation and the Tri-Presidency endorsed the Common Defence Policy Paper, a key element for progress in the restructuring of the Entity Armed Forces, and established several working groups. The master plan for restructuring of the Entity Armed Forces was presented to the entities at the SFOR/OSCE Joint Restructuring Steering Board meeting held in Sarajevo on 13 March.

14. The 15 per cent reduction of the Entity Armed Forces for 2000 has been reported by the forces and is being verified by SFOR. In addition, SFOR continues to support a broad weapons storage site inspection programme to verify the forces' holdings of equipment limited by article IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement (tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery, combat helicopters and aircraft).

Outlook

15. Although the overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained relatively calm during the reporting period, there was increased tension as a result of the Bosnian Croats' declared intention to establish a separate entity, the High Representative's subsequent expulsion of the Bosnian Croat Jelavic from the Tri-Presidency and from the Presidency of the HDZ-BK party (Croat Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the subsequent large number of desertions from the VF-H (Federation armed forces). SFOR is monitoring the situation and has taken measures to ensure that there is no effect on the overall security situation.